

HOUSE No. 1195

By Mr. Smizik of Brookline, petition of Frank I. Smizik and others relative to establishing a moratorium for approving applications for Commonwealth charter schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Frank I. Smizik	Anne M. Paulsen
Douglas W. Petersen	Steven M. Walsh
Ruth B. Balser	Stephen Kulik
J. James Marzilli, Jr.	Thomas J. O'Brien
Patricia D. Jehlen	Mary E. Grant
Karen E. Spilka	Ellen Story
Joyce A. Spiliotis	Deborah D. Blumer
John W. Scibak	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM FOR COMMONWEALTH CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 authority of the board of education to grant commonwealth char-
3 ters to an applicant pursuant to section 89 of chapter 71 of the
4 General Laws shall be suspended until the following matters have
5 been considered and are the subject of a report by a special com-
6 mission created by this act. Among the matters for consideration
7 and recommendation by said commission are the following: that
8 objective research is completed to study the effectiveness of inno-
9 vative learning strategies of the commonwealth charter schools;
10 objective research is completed to assess student learning and
11 achievement levels to measure the progress of comparable student
12 cohorts in charter and non charter public schools; an objective
13 analysis is completed to determine the enrollment and services

14 provided to students with special educational needs as defined by
15 General Laws chapter 71B, or students who are not proficient in
16 the English language pursuant to General Laws chapter 71A, or
17 students who receive free or reduced price lunch pursuant to fed-
18 eral law, and an objective study is completed to determine whether
19 the tuition formula F.Y. 2005 budgetary amendment was adequate
20 to meet the needs of local school districts.

21 There shall be a special study commission to review the above
22 referenced data and to file any legislation that may be necessary to
23 implement the commission's recommendations. The first meeting
24 of the commission shall take place within 30 days after the effec-
25 tive date of this act. The commission shall consist of the house
26 and senate chairs of the committee on ways and means or their
27 designees, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
28 education, arts and humanities or their designees, and one repre-
29 sentative selected by each of the following: Massachusetts Associ-
30 ation of School Committees, Massachusetts Association of School
31 Superintendents, Massachusetts Teachers Association and the
32 Massachusetts Federation of Teachers.